

Mr. Zalusier
4349-E. Bldg

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PENNSYLVANIA JOINS U. S. D. A. IN COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH

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Investigations for improving methods of managing wildlife on forests and farms and other biological studies will be undertaken at a new wildlife research unit being established at State College, Pa., by the Pennsylvania State College, the State Game Commission, and the U. S. Biological Survey. A cooperative agreement of the three agencies for setting up and maintaining the research unit was recently approved by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

Pennsylvania is the 11th State to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Biological Survey for investigating ways and means of fitting wildlife resources into land-use programs. Forest and farm-game problems will receive equal attention at the new research unit, as the State's land area of 28,692,480 acres is about equally divided between forest and woodland tracts and farm and urban property. Investigations will cover environmental studies, life habits, and the relationships of the more important wildlife species. Trial management areas will also be set up for demonstrating how the information obtained in research may be applied in a practical manner.

Dr. Logan J. Bennett, leader of the Iowa research unit at Ames since its establishment in September 1935, will be transferred March 1 to take charge of the new work in Pennsylvania. Under his direction the Iowa unit has worked out a number of game-management problems and has applied improved methods within its region. Prior to joining the Biological Survey, Doctor Bennett was connected with the Civilian Conservation Corps as a game technician at Winona, Minn., the

Iowa Fish and Game Commission, and Iowa State College. He received his B.S. degree from Central College, Fayette, Mo., and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State College. His successor at the Iowa Unit will be announced soon, it is expected.

"As Pennsylvania is well-advanced in wildlife conservation, the research unit has a fertile field in which to investigate current problems of maintaining desirable wildlife populations in the face of changing environmental conditions," says Dr. W. B. Bell, chief of the Survey's Division of Wildlife Research. He points out that the research units established during the past two years have been selected as nearly as possible on a regional basis in order that the practical information obtained may also be applied in adjoining States having similar wildlife-management problems. The other units are in Alabama, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

One or more trial demonstration areas have been set up at each research unit in order to work out a complete life history and management practice for one or more important fur, game, or other wildlife species. Most of these areas are established on lands of private owners, who cooperate with the research projects, and on State and national forests.

Funds for administering and operating the work in Pennsylvania are being provided by the State College, the State Game Commission, and the Biological Survey. An advisory committee consisting of representatives of the three co-operating agencies will administer the funds and plan the work.

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